

AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS

Please delete Figs. 12 to 23.

REMARKS

The Specification has been amended and drawings deleted to remove material incorporated by reference in Amendment A from United States Patent Application Serial No. 10/271,334 (now United States Patent No. 6,960,217).

Claims 1 to 22 and 24 to 26 have been previously canceled. Claim 23 has been amended. Claims 27; 29; and 30 have been canceled.

Claims 23 and 28 remain in the application. Of these, claim 23 is the sole independent method claim.

As amended claim 23 defines a method comprising identifying an aorta having an aneurysm and a neck region proximal to the aneurysm and adjacent a renal artery. The method further includes providing a first prosthesis comprising a first trunk including a prosthetic material and a scaffold that supports the prosthetic material to define a lumen within the first trunk. The first trunk is sized and configured for placement in the neck region to provide reinforcement to the neck region. The method also includes providing a second prosthesis comprising a second trunk including a prosthetic material and a scaffold that supports the prosthetic material to define a lumen within the second trunk. The second trunk is sized and configured for placement in the aneurysm to bridge the aneurysm. As further defined in amended claim 23, at least one of the first trunk and the second trunk includes a fastening region configured for the receipt and retention of at least one tissue-piercing fastener. The method includes providing at least one tissue-piercing fastener, and providing an intraluminal fastener attachment assembly that can be manipulated to implant the at least one tissue-piercing fastener into tissue. The method further includes deploying the first prosthesis in the neck region, and deploying the second prosthesis in the aneurysm. As defined in amended claim 23, the method includes telescopically fitting the first trunk and the second trunk to form a composite prosthesis. The method includes manipulating the intraluminal fastener attachment assembly to implant the at least one tissue-piercing fastener into tissue through the fastening region to anchor the composite prosthesis.

The claims prior to amendment stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based upon Parodi et al (WO 00/16701) in view of Taheri et al. (US 5,591,195). Neither Parodi nor Taheri teaches or suggests a composite prosthesis formed by deploying and telescopically fitting a first prosthesis in a neck region proximal to an aneurysm and adjacent a renal artery with a second prosthesis in the

aneurysm to bridge the aneurysm, the composite prosthesis being anchored by at least one tissue-piercing fastener implanted by an intraluminal fastener attachment assembly through a fastening region on at least one of the first and second prostheses.

For these reasons, applicant believes that Claims 23 and 28 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that questions or matters of clarification remain, applicant believes that such matters can be handled expeditiously by an interview by telephone to advance prosecution of this case, and the applicant is committed to proceed on that basis.

Respectfully Submitted,

By


Daniel D. Ryan

Registration No. 29,243

RYAN KROMHOLZ & MANION, S.C.

Post Office Box 26618

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53226

(262) 783 - 1300

Customer No.: 26308